

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-62 (canceled).

62. (currently amended) An ex vivo method of promoting proliferation of a hematopoietic stem cell or ~~primordial germ~~ cell comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 85% 95% identical to the amino acid of SEQ ID NO: 13, 32 or 34 or the mature protein coding portion thereof and exhibits stem cell growth factor activity, and wherein said amount is effective to promote proliferation of said cell.

63. (canceled)

5 64. (previously presented) The method of claim ¹62 or ³76, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.

2 65. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An ex vivo method of promoting proliferation of a hematopoietic stem cell or ~~primordial germ~~ cell comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, or the mature protein coding portion thereof, under the following stringent conditions: a final wash of 0.1x SSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C,

wherein the amount is effective to promote proliferation of said cell.

Claims 66-73 (canceled)

6 74. (previously presented) The method of claim ¹62 or ³76, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.

7 ~~15~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~62~~¹ or ~~76~~³, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 34, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.

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3 ~~76~~. (currently amended) An ex vivo method of maintaining survival of a hematopoietic stem cell ~~or primordial germ cell~~ comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 85% 95% identical to the amino acid of SEQ ID NO: 13, 32 or 34 or the mature protein coding portion thereof and exhibits stem cell growth factor activity, and wherein said amount is effective to maintain survival of said cell.

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4 ~~77~~. (currently amended) An ex vivo method of maintaining survival of a hematopoietic stem cell ~~or primordial germ cell~~ comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, or the mature protein coding portion thereof, under the following stringent conditions: a final wash of 0.1x SSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C,

wherein the amount is effective to maintain survival of said cell.